



Independence Now, Inc.

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The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senator
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 10, 2003

Dear Senator Hatch:

As the director of the center for independent living that serves people with disabilities in the Maryland suburban counties of Washington, DC, I am writing respectfully to urge you to oppose the re-nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Sutton unfortunately has chosen a path of judicial activism that demonstrates his complete disregard for and invalidates the civil rights of people with disabilities and racial minorities.

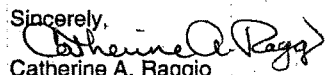
Mr. Sutton's arguments in the Board of Trustees v. Garrett case, Olmstead v. L.C. case and Westside Mothers v. Haveman are examples of his lack of regard for the civil rights of people with disabilities. Fortunately, his point of view did not prevail in all of these cases.

His record demonstrates that Mr. Sutton is not merely advancing his clients' interests. He apparently has sought out cases and created arguments designed to reverse over four decades of civil rights legislation, enacted with overwhelming bipartisan support. You and other members of Congress understood the impact that our country's long history of discrimination and segregation of people with disabilities has had in curtailing their achievement and preventing their full participation as citizens of our great nation. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act in an effort to correct the problems of isolation, lack of access to opportunities and high unemployment experienced by people with disabilities.

If Mr. Sutton's nomination is confirmed, it is highly probable that he will reverse many of the gains that people with disabilities have made since the enactment of the ADA. Mr. Sutton is not an appropriate candidate for a lifetime position on our nation's

second-highest federal court. I urge you to reject Mr. Sutton's nomination. Thank you for your careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Catherine A. Raggio
Executive Director